



**vodafone**

# Local government

resources roundup

News, views and insight from around the web

“We’ve adopted flexible work styles, have a better home-work balance and provided the tools to do that.”

Linda Robertson, Programme Manager, Fife Council



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# Local government resources

Local government finance: sailing into the perfect storm

Alongside reduced funding, today's council leaders must also deal with rising unemployment and an aging population. This article highlights key issues with some possible solutions.

Future workforce: using systems thinking and action learning to transform services

This report describes the experience of Poole Borough Council as it looks to change how its people deliver public services, initially around environmental and consumer protection.

Things are changing: public service reform

The way local government services are delivered has evolved but also carries previous baggage along with it. The Independent highlights how a number of initiatives are providing services in more joined-up ways.

Councils display appetite for innovation

Many councils believe reducing costs will have a negative impact on services – that they will have to 'do less with less'. However, others are taking a different view'. FT.com highlights four possible models for reform.

50 ways to ease your budgets...

Local councils, are staring at a budget reduction of 28% over five years from 2010, with widespread controversy over what this will mean on the ground. Eric Pickles, suggests how councils can save money.

"According to one local authority finance officer, lines of communication with the public are not clear in all councils. There is a palpable gap 'between knowledge and acceptance' when it comes to managing cuts."

**Apr 2012**

**Read the full article >**  
<http://bit.ly/Ygk2u>

"Driven by a need to realise efficiencies... the council embarked upon an innovative project which they deliberately intended to throw into question every process and procedure they had established."

**Oct 2012**

**Read the full report >**  
<http://bit.ly/11IE7Jj>

"Identifying those at risk, and jointly putting in place preventative plans and measures, could keep people in their homes for longer."

**Nov 2012**

**Read the full article >**  
<http://ind.pn/12ExJ0i>

"A survey of council chief executives carried out by Localis, a local government think-tank, recently discovered that more than one in three felt there were no services that could not be outsourced to the private or voluntary sector."

**Oct 2012**

**Read the full article >**  
<http://on.ft.com/14UzIAQ>

"This document contains practical tips and guidance on making sensible savings, highlighting ways that councillors can challenge officers to deliver savings, and ways that taxpayers can challenge councillors."

**Dec 2012**

**Read the full article >**  
<http://bit.ly/11IEenZ>



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# Further resources from us...

Take a look at our series of public leader videos: 'Public Perspectives' on our Guardian Partner Zone

[Watch our video series](#)



See how public sector leaders in local government meet their challenges

[Watch the Fife Council video](#)



Get the latest public sector news and views on the Guardian Public Service Reform Hub

[View our public service reform hub](#)



View our range of public sector case studies to find out how other organisations are changing how they work

[Read our case studies](#)



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# In summary: the changing face of local government

Local authorities are being squeezed from multiple directions with public expectations rising at internet speed

We have already explored a number of key issues in our video interviews with some of today's public leaders (as well as offering insights from our own experts). However, this is a complex issue with many competing and often contradictory viewpoints. So in this roundup, we've brought together some of the most interesting and most provocative content on the web.

Local government across the UK is undergoing unprecedented change. On one side, local authorities must significantly reduce costs to meet shrinking budgets. On the other side, today's public has never been more demanding. Their expectations are rising and are informed by what they see in the private sector.

Whether you agree or disagree with the views, we hope it has provided additional food for thought.



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# Core themes in local government

While every local council is different, a number of themes stood out:

## Cutting costs is not enough

Every local council is focused on reducing their costs – with current austerity measures, they have no choice. However, simply reducing headcount and abolishing services is not the answer. The levels of savings required are demanding a wholesale review of how services can and should be delivered.

## People are key

It is public sector employees who must ultimately make changes work. There will inevitably be fewer people doing more work. Successful councils will be those that harness the insights and creativity of their workers to help bring about local government reforms.

## Councils are more innovative than they're given credit for

Right across local government, there is an amazing degree of innovation at all levels. Today's forward-thinking councils are adopting new thinking and new approaches that are delivering evermore sophisticated public services.



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# About Vodafone and local government

We work throughout local government right across the UK, helping organisations improve their processes, change the way they use physical spaces and enable their staff to do their best work. Ultimately, we help them meet real and pressing challenges with innovative, positive solutions.



[Learn more about how we can help you meet your challenges >](#)



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# How did we do?

## 3-click feedback form

This was:

- ☐ Great – I'd happily recommend it to a friend or colleague
- ☐ Average – it was interesting information, I learned something
- ☐ Poor – I didn't see the value in any of this

Tell us what we did well and what we can improve next time:

Thanks for your time.

[Send us your feedback >](#)



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